IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are indicated by strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are indicated by underscoring.

Paragraph [011]   The present invention relates to a ranging apparatus that calculates the ranging distance by using the object images taken by the plural cameras. The distortion correction is carried out for the acquired images for each of the cameras. Plural distortion correction means or devices are set for the ranging distances which are progressively set on the ranging distances. All of the acquired images are corrected by means of a corrective computation means or device for all of the ranging distances which are progressively set. Then, the corrected images are generated from the acquired images. The most appropriate correction among the corrected images is selected by a corrected image selection means or device. The ranging distance of the object of which image has been taken by the cameras is calculated by a ranging computation means or device.

Paragraph [012]   For the ranging apparatus regarding the present invention, plural distortion correction means or devices are made for the ranging distances of the object in a progressive set as 10-20 cm, 20-35 cm, 35-55 cm, etc. The corrective computation means or device carries out to generate plural corrected images computed by using all distortion correction means or devices provided for the progressively set ranging distances. In this computation, plurality of the corrected images equals to the number of corrective computation means or devices multiplied by the quantity of cameras used for the image acquisition. Among these corrected images, the corrected image which is most appropriately corrected is selected by a corrected image selection

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means or device. The corrected image selected in this process is used for the determination of

the ranging distance which is computed by a ranging computation means or device. The precise

distance can be finally obtained after this series of processes.

Paragraph [015]   According to the apparatus that has the means to realize the above

determination sequence and method, an optimum comparison image, that is, the image corrected

by appropriate correction means or device can be selected by searching the object in only limited

picture elements where the coincidence is only evaluated.

Paragraph [016]   The present invention comprises several steps to compute the ranging

distance. The first step is to acquire the image of a target object by using plural cameras. The

second step is to determine plural corrected images by computing to eliminate the distortion with

the distortion correction means or devices obtained for the ranging distances progressively set on

beforehand. The third step is to select the corrected image that has the least distortion. The

fourth step to compute the ranging distance of the object in the corrected image based on the

corrected image.

Paragraph [017]   When this method is applied to the determination of the ranging distance,

the effects of the measurement step are obtained as follows. Plural images can be acquired by

the plural cameras in the first step. Plural corrected images can be obtained after the correction

for each acquired image done by all of the distortion correction means or devices in the second

step. The corrected image that has the least distortion among the plural corrected images is

selected in the third step. The distance of the object is computed on the basis of corrected

images that are appropriately corrected for the distortion in the fourth step.

Paragraph [019]   All of the means <u>or devices</u> and the steps can be executed by a computer

program that is installed in computer hardware for distortion correction.